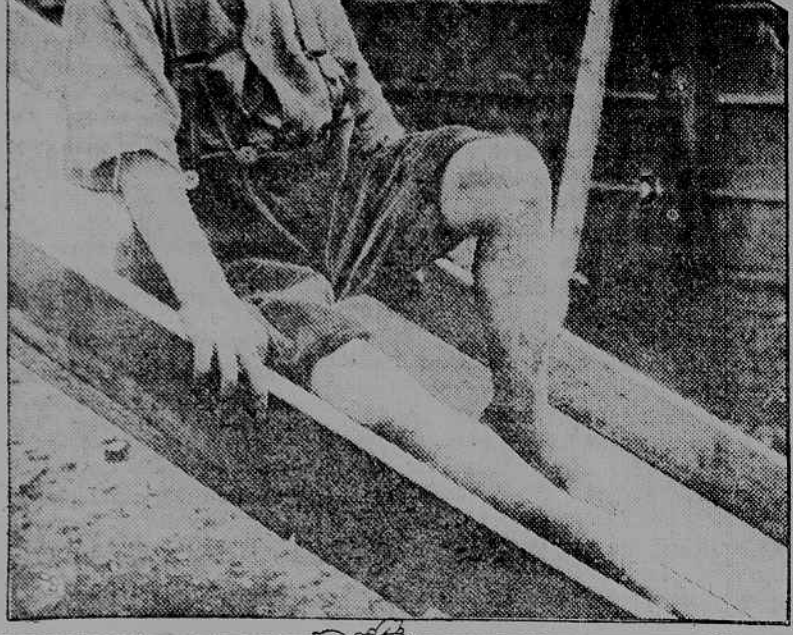


Wall Street Looks After Its Own Backyard; Neighbor of World's Richest District Found To Be One of the Poorest; Work Has Economic Basis



GIRL scouts recruited from the Bowling Green neighborhood are helping in the work



MRS. ARTHUR WOOD, upper left; MRS. JOHN T. PRATT, center, and MRS. RAY MORRIS, members of the Women's Committee of the Bowling Green Association

floor of a building in Washington Street. It is now housed in a neat and completely renovated building on West Street. There are, in addition to the executive offices, a large assembly room, a baby clinic, prenatal clinic, malnutrition clinic, a dental clinic, several clubrooms, two billiard rooms and a library. Adjoining the building is a playground, lent by the Hyde estate and a steamship company. This vacant lot was

Reach 5,000 Persons

So the work of the organization gradually has taken hold of the people in the district and they themselves are helping with the task. The section covered by the association is geographically that from the North River to Broadway, from the Battery to Vesey Street. Practically all of the tenements are on Washington Street. Fifteen hundred families, or about 5,000 persons, are reached through the work of the association.

Conditions in the tenements, most of which are owned by absentee landlords, were unspeakably bad six or seven years ago. Refuse usually was thrown out of the windows. The tenements had been allowed to run down. Hall sinks were the breeding places for disease, and broken, littered stairways were a fine field for accidents. Moreover, the rooms were overcrowded, whole families and a boarder or two often sleeping in the same room.

The nationalities that predominate are Polish, Syrian and Slavic, with a small percentage each of Irish, Scotch and English. In a complete survey, however, it was found that twenty-six nationalities were represented.

From the neighborhood house on West Street waves of Americanization are radiating the whole district. Trim lines of Boy and Girl Scouts are helping to bring their fathers and mothers, brothers and sisters into the ranks of real citizenship. It might be said that of all the Scout



THE puddle under the swing only adds to the fun when one can drag one's bare toes through the water

troops we have ever seen there were more handsome girls in that Bowling Green Neighborhood Association than in any other.

Gala Days

In a way the association is bringing the advantages of small town life to these families in Washington Street. They have clubs and gala days all their own. A Mr. Morgan gives an annual May day party which is a big event. The children have their outings in the country. One day, when the circus was at Madison Square Garden, the children were loaded onto trucks and taken to the circus. The young men and women have dances at the assembly rooms, in the neighborhood house, and their parents have lodges.

The business men are keeping up their support of the association. The services offered, such as the dental clinic, for instance, make a nominal charge (tooth pulling being 10 cents, they say), and the idea is not to make the people of the district too dependent. In place of the large subscriptions made when the association was started, the directors are aiming at a regular small subscription from as many of the Wall Street men as will appreciate what the work means to them. The women's committee, composed of the wives of some of the Wall Street

men, take an active part in working for the association also.

The officers of the organization are Miner C. Hill, M. D.; Lee W. Thomas, M. D.; and Chellis A. Austin. Edmund Leamy is executive secretary and the board of directors are Chellis A. Austin, L. I. Benedict Jr., John E. Berwind, Philip Boyer, Greenville T. Emmet, Jerome D. Greene, John R. Hall, Miner C. Hill, M. D.; Herbert T. B. Jacquelin, Willard V. King, G. Herman Kinnicutt, Albert H. Marckwald, Albert G. Milbank, Walter Moore, Charles E. Mitchell, Alonzo Potter, Charles V. Rich, Sheppard G. Schermerhorn, Mortimer L. Schiff, Carl J. Schmidlapp, James Sheldon, Samuel Sloan, Joseph R. Swan, Everett B. Sweezy, Lee W. Thomas, M. D.; John B. Walker, M. D., and Kenneth D. Widemer.

The women's committee is composed of Mrs. Philip Boyer, Mrs. Lowell Burch, Mrs. Stephen C. Clark, Mrs. Greenville T. Emmet, Mrs. Jerome D. Greene, Mrs. John R. Hall, Mrs. Russell Hills, Mrs. Miner C. Hill, Mrs. G. Herman Kinnicutt, Mrs. Hugh Minton, Mrs. Ray Morris, Mrs. Alonzo Potter, Mrs. John T. Pratt, Mrs. Charles H. Sabin, Mrs. Mortimer L. Schiff, Mrs. Cotton Smith, Mrs. Arthur Swann, Miss Edith Westmore, Mrs. George Whitney and Mrs. Arthur Woods.

By Hannah Mitchell

SHOOTING the chute at the Bowling Green Neighborhood Association playground

posedly given over to skyscrapers and warehouses, and those who did paid little heed to the conditions under which they lived.

A New Phrase Born

It was brought home to these brokers and bankers that if any one was going to help clean up this neighborhood it would have to be themselves. Thus another graphic phrase was added into the dictionary of New York neighborhoods, and the slums along Washington Street became "Wall Street's backyard." This phrase is offensive to the people who live in the tenements, and they bristle whenever it is mentioned. Nevertheless, they might remember how important and how much prized a backyard really is. A front lawn is for the neighbors, but it is the backyard that is nearest its owner's heart.

And so the business men have begun to be proud of their "backyard." The improvement in conditions and the decrease in the death rate of babies are the work of the Bowling Green Neighborhood Association, through which the men of Wall Street have worked to clean up the district. The views of the business men upon why they undertook the work and why they will keep it going are an interesting commentary on modern business.

"It is not good business to let a

neighborhood next door become a social sore spot," said Mr. G. Hermann Kinnicutt, who has been interested in the association's work for several years. "In calling this work to the attention of business men we have had the best results when we made the sound business appeal."

The Connecting Link

"One very practical argument is that most of the scrubwomen for these big buildings and some of the porters and other workers come from that neighborhood. In these days many firms spend large amounts of money keeping the members of their forces fit. They offer certain kinds of insurance and give physical examinations; some provide medical care for their employees. Well, an immediate appeal is made to the men in those firms when they realize that all their work for keeping their people in condition may be completely undone through the ill health and uncleanness of these people who take care of the offices. In spite of the fact that a purely humanitarian appeal should have a strong effect, we have found that this practical

and, if you will, more selfish view interested the business men. "And this work of cleaning up the living conditions at our back door is really our work. It was neglected for a long time, simply because no one thought of it, I suppose. But it is not our business, it is no one's. In the shadow of the richest district in the world there should not exist such poverty and bad conditions. With untold wealth within a stone's throw, it is cruel to think of babies dying from lack of attention."

In Neat Quarters

In the beginning the Bowling Green Neighborhood Association had only a small office on the second

once occupied by a soap factory, and the children call it by the soap firm's name.

When the association first started its work in this neighborhood it did not meet with a kindly reception from the people it aimed to help. Many of them had the resentment and distrust so often felt for social workers before the purpose of the work is made clear. The neighborhood was peculiar also, in that it represented so many and such recently arrived foreigners. It had become the dumping ground for many of the steamers bringing steerage passengers. There on the edge of this country many of these people lived and

After Reviewing Thousands of Plays, William Archer Has Written His First One

IN A north room, high up in the Hotel Pennsylvania, William Archer, London's celebrated essayist and critic of the drama, peered out of the window as a crowd below was exercising itself violently while witnessing the passing of a motor car of the famous Sir Thomas Lipton.

When William Archer had entered the Hotel Pennsylvania that morning his arrival had created no ripple of concern and not one in that long and wide lobby knew him; yet William Archer, in his own particular way, is a Britisher quite as celebrated as the Buffets tea merchant, if not more so, and the episode of the afternoon merely went to show that William Archer, if he had courted fame in New York, should have gone in for tea and made millions, and should then have proceeded to America with a broad smile and lost international yacht races.

Born in Scotland

Mr. Archer is a born Scotsman, who has been in London so long that he acts like an Englishman and must be regarded as one. He has done so much, albeit he won't talk at length of these achievements. Others have done that for him, and the more important products of his own work are set down permanently in good type and are to be found in permanent form over in the public library.

Archer is sixty-four years old, although he appears to be ten years younger. He is a solemn sort of a person, without being too solemn. His smile is soft, but so unctuous that it is worth more than the uproarious laugh produced by men of lesser genius. He is tall and apparently muscular and stands like a heavyweight.

It was Edward Lyons, general manager for Mr. Winthrop Ames, once director of the New Theater,

but now engaged in theatricals that produce profit, who suggested that Mr. Archer was due to arrive in America, and Mr. Lyons cautiously unfolded the secret that William Archer, "the greatest mentor among the dramatic critics of our day," had written a play, which is to be produced by Mr. Ames as soon as the people of the United States definitely decide whether it is to be Harding or Cox for a four-years' residence in the well known White House.

His First Play

It was Mr. Archer, later, at the Hotel Pennsylvania, who let the black cat out of the bag when he said that this play, with the scenes laid in an imaginary province of India, is his very first play, an astonishing revelation when you consider that Mr. Archer has been writing on things dramatic for more than forty years, and that one of his best works, "Play-Making," is regarded as a textbook for play builders and the last word in the rules for writing the perfect drama.

If Mr. Archer has reviewed, in his professional capacity as critic, one play he has reviewed 5,000, and he has written on every phase of the drama. He is one of London's greatest authorities and so acknowledged by every one over there who is at all worth while in the theater, yet this forthcoming production is to be Mr. Archer's very first effort as a dramatist on his own account, a fact remarkable when you are told that Mr. Archer is sixty-four years old.

"The idea for this play came to me after I had spent six months in India," he said, "and I drew the principal character with Henry Irving in mind. Mr. Irving died, so when I had completed my play I decided on America for its premiere

and offered it to Mr. Ames. Mr. Ames read the play and accepted it, and here I am to see what we shall see."

A possible explanation of Mr. Archer's long delay in playmaking on his own account may be found in the innumerable translations of plays which he has made into English from foreign languages. As the greatest mentor among London dramatic critics Mr. Archer, in the early '90s, decided that London should get acquainted with Mr. Ibsen, the eminent Norwegian, and he undertook to translate the better of the Ibsen plays. He had assistance in several of these translations, but the bulk of the work he did alone. The Ibsen plays, he says, were favorably received in London, although none of the London presentations, he admits, met with the success accorded the Ibsen performances of Nazimova in this country.

Mr. Archer's work in translations extended into many fields. He put several of the Maeterlinck plays into English for London presentation, and he also has translated other works from the French, as well as plays from the German.

Many Irons in the Fire

All the while he was performing these laborious tasks of making foreign plays fit the English tongue Mr. Archer was following his daily routine as dramatic critic for a London newspaper; was writing special articles for the magazines; was writing political essays now and then from the standpoint of a Liberal—and he is an ardent one—and occasionally turning out a book of travel or technical works on the drama.

Mr. Archer's forty-five years of service as a writer and traveler have been well occupied, and if he

had attempted to write plays of his own, in addition to the multitude of other tasks, he would have had to reorganize the daylight system or get down to Mr. Edison's sleeping schedule, which is quoted at five

hours per diem by the Edison night watch.

During his long years as a stage authority in England Mr. Archer has steadfastly promoted the intellectual drama, and he has been not

only an ardent admirer of Shakespeare, but one of those who have ever insisted that Shakespeare is necessary to the wellbeing of each succeeding generation.

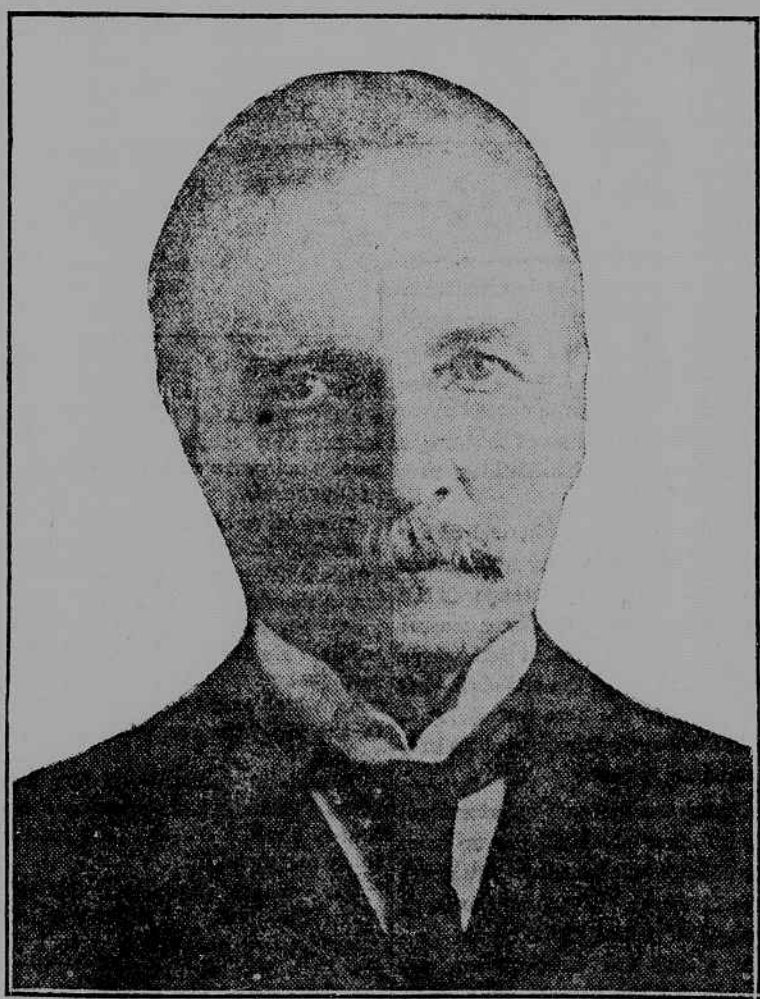
"I get more unmixed pleasure from 'As You Like It,' he said, "than from any other play ever written; and 'Romeo and Juliet' runs it hard in my affections."

Mr. Archer says the provincial towns of England get their Shakespeare regularly in allopathic doses, but the Shakespearean productions in London in recent years have become a hazard. They cost too much for the limited run, and a limited run of Shakespeare is all that can be expected, even by the most optimistic, in the British metropolis.

Mr. Archer has studied the peoples in many sections of the world. Early in life he spent two years in Australia. Later he was in Italy for two years, where he made a thorough and interesting study of that land, her people and her literature. Other countries and races have been made the objects of his charming observations, also, but India, where he spent six fruitful months, seems dearer to his heart than all the rest. His recent work, "India and the Future," is a splendid exposition of the character of the natives of that country and a plea for nationalism in that great land, which claims a population of more than 315,000,000 souls.

India Needs Education

"Education is required in India," he said, "and while education is expensive, viewed from any angle you choose, the redemption of the people quite naturally depends upon their educational development. There are approximately 1,000,000 native Indians who read and speak the English language quite well. They



WILLIAM ARCHER, English critic and essayist who has brought his first play to America

speak English far better than most enlightened foreigners I have met. They don't speak their English as well as the native Englishman, to be sure, but they do marvelously well. One million English speaking natives out of a population of 315,000,000 doesn't seem to be a high average, but it is a good start, and in time we can look for better progress."

Not All Tagores

Mr. Archer has the highest respect for India and her traditions. Her civilization extends back many centuries, he said, and the better class of Indians represent types of the highest culture and learning.

"Among the better class you won't find that all of them are Tagores," he said, "but they are wholesome people and compare most favorably with the better types of other nations."

One can't talk long with Mr. Archer without asking his opinion of the situation in Ireland, and here Mr. Archer smiled and raised his hands.

"No one dares talk too much about the situation in Ireland," he said. "I think, however, that present conditions are due, in great measure, to the nonsense of English statesmen, who should have acted differently. Riot and bloodshed are to be deplored, and against the Irish we must recall that they were about ready to receive self-government six years ago, when it developed that they couldn't agree among themselves."

"In regard to the armed Sinn Féiners that now face British soldiers, the government must realize that six years ago arms were landed in the north of Ireland and that

section virtually was in rebellion against established authority. And it must be admitted that Mr. Asquith, the Premier at that time, and who is of my political belief, made very little effort to check operations in the north of Ireland that were plainly antagonistic to law and order.

"When the British government failed to check the shipment of ammunition and arms to the north six years ago and failed even to make a serious attempt to suppress the insurrection, they gave the Nationalists in the south and west of Ireland the excuse to employ the same tactics later on."

"The League of Nations" This suggestion brought another soft smile to the placid countenance of the London critic.

Mr. Archer and the League

"I was a staunch admirer of President Wilson from the moment America entered the war," he said, "but I have met so many Americans abroad, Americans of both political parties, who had turned on the President, that I have been in doubt as to whether I should express my opinion of your executive. Really, I think he is a big man, and I see in the League of Nations a possible solution of the problems which bring on wars, but American sentiment, gauged by the things we learn in England, seems so pronounced against the President and the league that I don't want to show lack of tact by getting on the wrong side of American sentiment."

Mr. Archer added: "League or no league, America is entitled to the privilege of holding aloof from future European entanglements, but it is my guess that she won't do it."